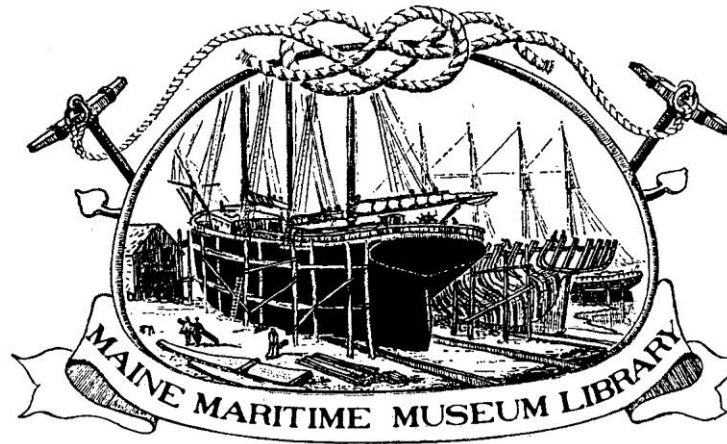


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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS - 42**

**Captain Atwood B. Norton Papers**

**1894-1934  
Bulk: 1894-1905**

by  
Elisabeth Meier  
October 2018

1 box  
0.4 linear feet  
*Accession no. 78.113.1*

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## Abstract

### **Norton, Atwood B., Captain (1869-1962)**

#### **Papers, 1894-1934**

Bulk: 1894-1905

1 box

Schooner captain from Rockland, Maine

This collection contains accounts, charter parties, bills of lading, slop accounts, wage receipts, and related documents from vessels commanded by Captain Atwood B. Norton (1869-1962) between 1894 and 1905. During those years, Norton sailed the *Catawamteak* (two-mast schooner), *John I. Snow* (three-mast schooner), *Lavinia M. Snow* (three-mast schooner), and *Methebesec* (three-mast schooner), all owned and managed by I.L. Snow & Co. of Rockland, Maine. The collection focuses on the schooners' business in the coasting and West Indies trade, and contains little personal material.

Museum purchase from William Hill, Gosshill Books.

MS-042. Accession #78.113.1.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

#### **Added entries—persons:**

Norton, Atwood B., Captain (1869-1962)

#### **Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):**

*Catawamteak* (two-mast schooner)

I. L. Snow & Co.

*John I. Snow* (three-mast schooner)

*Lavinia M. Snow* (three-mast schooner)

*Methebesec* (three-mast schooner)

#### **Added entries—key terms:**

Accounts

Coasters (ships)

Coastwise shipping

Granite industry and trade

Ice trade

Lumber trade

Merchant seamen

Salt industry and trade

Schooners

Ship captains

Sugar trade

Wages

West Indies trade

## Acquisition

This collection was purchased from William Hill, of Gosshill Books, in 1978. It was part of a larger purchase that included the log-book and slop accounts of the schooner *M.V.B. Chase* (SM 52/1-2), the Captain William Patterson Papers (MS-634), the Schooner *Elizabeth Howard*

Papers (MS-635), Captain Joseph Purington Account Book (part of MS-88), Joseph Cargill papers (MS-413), Joseph Dodge papers, (MS-636), and the Orrissa Willmarth Foster Sheppard papers (MS-637).

### **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

### **Physical Condition**

The papers are mostly in good condition. Some edges are bent and torn. A portion of the papers and several of the books show small to moderate losses from mice. The bindings on many of the books are fragile and cracking.

### **Processing Notes**

The collection has been divided into two sections: first, papers from Atwood B. Norton's life ashore, and second, papers related to his various commands. Where possible, the latter have been organized by individual vessel. However, several account books kept by Captain Norton refer to more than one vessel, and two hand-bound booklets of wage receipts contain records for multiple vessels in no discernable order. These volumes have been filed after the vessel papers, but are worth consulting in concert with the vessel-specific material.

### **Related Materials**

More information on vessels in the Snow fleet can be found in MS-406, which contains material from Israel D. Snow, another captain who sailed for I.L. Snow & Co. MS-464 holds records from the Snow Marine Company, a salvage firm founded in 1907 by Israel L. Snow's son, John I. Snow, who had formerly commanded Snow schooners and was involved with the management of I.L. Snow & Co.

### **Historical Note**

Atwood B. Norton was born in Belfast, Maine, in 1869, to Byron H. Norton, a mariner, and his wife Matilda. By age 26, Norton was a captain in command of the two-masted schooner *Catawamteak*, which was owned and managed by I.L. Snow & Co. of Rockland, ME. Norton stayed with I.L. Snow & Co. for the remainder of his career, and went on to command the Snow schooners *John I. Snow*, *Lavinia M. Snow*, *Methebesec*, *William Bisbee*, and *Hugh de Payens*. He was in command of the *Hugh de Payens* in 1919 when she was caught in a hurricane in the Straits of Florida and started to founder. The crew eventually abandoned ship, and the *Payens* drifted ashore and was a total loss.

Captain Atwood B. Norton sailed the Snow schooners in the coasting and West Indies trades. The Snow vessels were general freighters, and Norton carried everything from lumber, coal, lime, ice, fertilizer, and salt to iron pipes, casting sand, and coconuts. Most of his business was from New York, Maine, southern lumber ports, and the Caribbean islands.

Norton married Jennie Look (1874-1912) of Rockland, and early in his career lived with her family when ashore. They had two children: Ethel (b. 1892) and Lillias (b. 1896). After

Jennie's death, Norton remarried Frances (or Fannie) H. By 1930, Norton had retired and was living in Rockland. He died in 1962.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The bulk of this collection consists of documents from the schooners *Catawamteak*, *John I. Snow*, *Lavinia M. Snow*, and *Methebesec* during the years that they were commanded by Captain Atwood B. Norton. As such, it has more information on the Snow fleet's participation in the coasting trade between 1894 and 1905 than on Norton's own life.

A majority of the documents are accounts related to the various schooners' business with brokers, shipping agents, provision and water merchants, and other aspects of business in port. It is particularly detailed concerning accounts with the crew. There are wage receipts, both loose and bound, for all four vessels, bills from agents for finding seamen, and meticulous accounts that Norton kept with individual sailors for slops, tobacco, and cash advances. The latter are largely in Norton's bound notebooks, which also include the captain's own expenses with the vessel. Additionally, charter parties and bills of lading provide a fairly complete record of the schooners' business with shippers. There is no correspondence in the collection, nor are there any logbooks or other records of events at sea.

The collection also contains a few accounts of Norton's personal business with I.L. Snow & Co. Additionally, there is a small folder of household bills from the 1920s and 30s, when Norton was living in Rockland, and an account book in which Norton recorded the performance of stocks and shares that he owned over the same period. Apart from that, there is almost no personal material.

## Box and Folder List

### Atwood B. Norton

Box	Folder	
1	1	Atwood B. Norton, accounts with I.L. Snow & Co., 1894-1903
	2	Household accounts, 1920-1934
	3	Account book, personal investments, 1926-1934
	4	Ephemera

### Vessels

		<i>Catawamteak</i> (two-mast schooner)
1	5	General accounts and crew, April 1895 – August 1895
	6	Charter parties, November 1894 – November 1895
		<i>John I. Snow</i> (three-mast schooner)
	7	General accounts, January 1894 – January 1900
	8	Account book, Atwood B. Norton, 1897-1899
	9	Charter parties, May 1896 – October 1899
	10	Bills of lading, February 1898 – September 1899
	11	Crew, June 1897 – June 1899
		<i>Lavinia M. Snow</i> (three-mast schooner)
	12	General accounts, September 1899 – January 1901
	13	Charter parties, January – September 1900
	14	Bills of lading, 1900
	15	Crew, 1900
		<i>Methebesec</i> (three-mast schooner)
	16	General accounts, 1901-1902
	17	General accounts, 1903-1905
	18	Charter parties, 1900-1905
	19	Bills of lading, 1901-1905
	20	Clearance certificates, 1902
	21	Crew, 1901-1905
	22	Notebooks (3), A.B. Norton, recording accounts, crew, and protests, 1901-1903
	23	Notebook, A.B. Norton, c. 1894-c. 1898
		Accounts, A.B. Norton with <i>Catawamteak</i> (two-mast schooner) and <i>John I. Snow</i> (three-mast schooner)
		Crew accounts, <i>John I. Snow</i> (three-mast schooner)
	24	Notebook, A. B. Norton, c. 1900-1903
		Accounts, A.B. Norton, <i>Lavinia M. Snow</i> (three-mast schooner), and <i>Methebesec</i> (three-mast schooner)
		Crew accounts, <i>Methebesec</i> (three-mast schooner)
	25	Wage receipts, two booklets, 1894-1902
		<i>Catawamteak</i> , <i>John I. Snow</i> , <i>Lavinia M. Snow</i> , and <i>Methebesec</i>